AVENGERS THE INITIATIVE

AFTER STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT WAS DESTROYED DURING A TELEVISED FIGHT BETWEEN THE NEW WARRIORS AND A GROUP OF DANGEROUS VILLAINS, A FEDERAL SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT WAS PASSED. ALL INDIVIDUALS POSSESSING PARANORMAL ABILITIES MUST NOW REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT. TONY STARK, A.K.A. IRON MAN, HAS BEEN APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D., THE INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE. HE HAS SET IN MOTION THE INITIATIVE, A PLAN FOR TRAINING AND POLICING SUPER HEROES IN THIS BRAVE NEW WORLD, INTENDED TO POSITION A LOCAL SUPER HERO TEAM IN EACH OF AMERICA'S FIFTY STATES.

STAFF

YELLOWJACKET

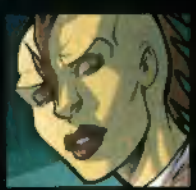
WAR MACHINE

HENRY PETER GYRICH

TRAINEES

CLOUD 9

HARDBALL



KOMODO

TRIATHLON

THOR GIRL

SCARLET SPIDERS

ANT-MAN

STATURE

When a training exercise goes awry, MVP--the most promising trainee in the Initiative--is killed. All those present in the room during the accident are told the incident never happened. However, on a visit to MVP's home in Kentucky, Justice and Cloud 9 discover Michael Van Patrick, very much alive!

Though it remains top-secret information, Baron Von Blitzschlag, chief scientist at Camp Hammond, has successfully cloned MVP four times--one of his clones has taken the place of the original Michael at home with his father, and the other three now serve as the high-flying Scarlet Spiders!

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Camp Hammond.
Subbasement 9.
Now.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
GOT TO STAY SMALL. IF I GROW I'LL MOVE FASTER, BUT I'LL BE A BIGGER TARGET. AND IF I'M A BIGGER TARGET I'M DEAD.
OH, LORD. I'M STEPPING IN HIS BLOOD. THIS CADET'S BEEN BLOWN APART AND I'M WALKING IN HIS--
NO, DON'T LOOK. KEEP MOVING. GOT TO REACH THE OUTSIDE...CALL FOR HELP.
WE'VE GOT OVER SIXTY SUPER HEROES ON BASE AND IT'S NOT ENOUGH. NOT NEARLY ENOUGH...
FACE IT, HANK. THIS IS THE END OF THE INITIATIVE.
MAYBE IT NEVER SHOULD HAVE STARTED. MAYBE THIS PROVES IT. AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT WHO TO BLAME.
AFTER ALL... THIS WAS YOUR BRILLIANT IDEA...

Stamford, Connecticut.
Several Months Ago.
Four Hours After The Explosion That Killed Over Six Hundred People.
I'M...AFRAID THAT MAY BE IT FOR SURVIVORS. ASIDE FROM US, I'M NOT DETECTING ANY LIFE SIGNS. FOR MILES.
THAT'S NOT WHAT THE PUBLIC'S GOING TO WANT TO HEAR, HANK.
IT'S NOT WHAT I WANT TO HEAR, TONY. BUT I CAN'T CHANGE THE DATA.
THAT'S NOT WHAT IRON MAN MEANT.
TELL HIM, TONY. TELL HANK WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO HEAR IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS.
WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR ARE THE WORDS "NEVER AGAIN."
IN THAT CASE, TONY... REED...
...WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO.
The Baxter Building, Headquarters of The Fantastic Four.
Days Later.
THAT'S FORTY, GENTLEMEN.
WE'VE GOT FORTY IDEAS HERE THAT'LL CHANGE THE WORLD.
NOT ENOUGH. AND MOST OF THESE WILL TAKE A WHILE TO IMPLEMENT. AFTER WHAT'S HAPPENED, WE NEED PLANS THAT WILL HAVE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT.
I MIGHT HAVE JUST THE THING, REED.
I CALL IT THE FIFTY STATE INITIATIVE.

WE'VE ALL AGREED SUPERHUMANS HAVE TO BE TRAINED AND LICENSED. BUT WHAT IF WE TOOK IT A STEP FURTHER?
SUPPOSE WE PUT A FULLY-SANCTIONED SUPER-TEAM IN EVERY STATE?
I LIKE IT, IN PRINCIPLE. BUT THERE AREN'T ENOUGH SUPER HEROES IN THE COUNTRY.
THERE CAN BE, IF WE THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX.
HOW ABOUT THE VILLAINS? WE COULD EXPAND THE S.P.I.N. TECH POWER-NEUTRALIZING PROGRAM WE DISCUSSED.
USE THE NANOTECH TO SEND OUT NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT-- A KIND OF "OBEDIENCE COLLAR" FOR CRIMINALS.
GOOD START, BUT VILLAINS ARE TOO RISKY FOR WIDESPREAD USE. WHAT ABOUT THE SOMA TECH? WE MAY BE ABLE TO INDUCE POWERS IN HANDPICKED SUBJECTS.
PERHAPS EVEN CLONE EXISTING SUPERHUMANS, OR MIMIC THEIR POWERS TECHNOLOGICALLY.
I COULD REVAMP THE GUARDSMAN ARMOR, OR MODIFY THE "IRON SPIDER" SUIT I CREATED FOR SPIDER-MAN...
AND I'VE BEEN DESIGNING A REVISED ANT-MAN/GIANT-MAN SUIT FOR THE MILITARY. I'VE GOT THE SCHEMATICS RIGHT HERE.
G.I. ANT-MAN
HEH... "G.I. ANT-MAN?"
HAHAHA!
WHAT? THE SUIT MAKES ITS WEARER BIG OR SMALL. AND IT'S FOR SOMEONE IN THE SERVICE, SO... G.I. ANT-MAN.
I THOUGHT IT WAS KIND OF CLEVER.
IT'S...A FINE IDEA, HANK. I'M SORRY I LAUGHED; WE HAVEN'T SLEPT IN DAYS. IT JUST...SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF MY KIDS' TOYS--
ALL RIGHT, LET'S MOVE ON TO IDEA FORTY-TWO, REED, WHAT'S THE FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING YOUR PRISON IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE?
WELL, IF WE LIMIT THE BUILDING MATERIALS FROM THIS DIMENSION...
S.H.I.E.L.D. THINKS G.I. ANT-MAN IS A GOOD IDEA. THEY LIKE THE NAME...

Stamford.
Weeks Later.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS...PEOPLE OF STAMFORD...

...TODAY WE BREAK GROUND ON CAMP HAMMOND--AN INSTITUTION THAT WILL FULFILL THE PROMISE OF THE SUPERHUMAN REGISTRATION ACT.

HERE, SUPERHUMANS WILL BE TRAINED IN THE USE OF THEIR POWERS, TRAINED TO SERVE THE GREATER GOOD.

THERE WILL BE OVERSIGHT. THERE WILL BE REPERCUSSIONS. THERE WILL BE ORDER.

WHY HERE? WHY STAMFORD?

AREN'T YOU INVITING ANOTHER DISASTER?

QUITE THE OPPOSITE. THE MAIN REASON WE CHOSE STAMFORD WAS THIS: WITH THE SHEER NUMBER OF SUPERHUMANS COMING IN AND OUT, NO ONE WOULD EVER BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO ATTACK HERE.

THIS IS OUR GIFT TO THE PEOPLE OF STAMFORD. WHENEVER YOU'RE FEELING UNSAFE, FROM NOW ON, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO--

--IS LOOK UP!

Camp Hammond.
Last Week.
HEY HEY! HO HO! CAMP HAMMOND'S GOT TO GO!
LOOK-- A NEW BUSLOAD OF SUPER-FREAKS! IT'S NEVER GONNA END!
WE DON'T WANT YOU HERE! WHY CAN'T YOU PEOPLE JUST LEAVE US IN PEACE?
I'VE GOT TO GREET THE NEW RECRUITS. CAN YOU HANDLE THE CROWD, WAR MACHINE?
NO PROBLEM, YELLOWJACKET. IT'S UNDER CONTROL.
FOLKS, PLEASE--I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS, BUT THEY'RE MISGUIDED. EVERYTHING'S GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN.
SUPERHUMAN CRIME IS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW BECAUSE OF WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE. BECAUSE WE GRADUATE MORE RECRUITS FROM THE INITIATIVE PROGRAM EVERY DAY--
--AND THEY GO ON TO SERVE IN TEAMS AROUND THE COUNTRY. BUT ONLY AFTER THEY'RE TRAINED, TO MAKE SURE WHAT HAPPENED HERE NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN.
OUR CADETS ONLY GO INTO THE FIELD WHEN THEY'RE QUALIFIED TO SAFELY AND SECURELY DEAL WITH THREATS...
...THREATS LIKE THAT!
SWEET LORD, IT'S A MONSTER!
YOU BROUGHT THAT INTO OUR TOWN? ARE YOU INSANE?
HAVEN'T WE SUFFERED ENOUGH?

IT'S OKAY! WE JUST BROUGHT HIM HERE TO SEND HIM TO THE NEGATIVE ZONE PRISON. BY TONIGHT HE'LL BE IN ANOTHER DIMENSION!
YEAH, AND YOU'RE WELCOME, JERKWADS! IT'S OUR FREAKIN' PLEASURE RISKING OUR NECKS TO MAKE YOUR WORLD SAFER.
TELL 'EM, HARDBALL.
QUIET! ACT LIKE SUPER HEROES, DAMN IT! IF YOU WANT TO MOUTH OFF...
"...WAIT UNTIL WE GET INSIDE!"
JEEZ. DON'T THOSE PEOPLE HAVE JOBS?
NICE WORK, CADETS. DRAGON MAN'S A PRETTY HEAVY-HITTER. HOW'D YOU TAKE HIM DOWN, TRIATHLON?
WITH STRICT MILITARY PRECISION, STINGRAY.
IT WAS EASY...ONCE WE REALIZED HE WAS TOTALLY CRUSHING ON KOMODO. HE'S GOT IT BAD, RIGHT, THOR GIRL?
AYE...THE BEAST IS QUITE SMITTEN WITH HER!
USED YOUR REPTILIAN WILES ON HIM, HUH, KID?
WHAT'D YOU DO, FLASH HIM SOME TAIL--LITERALLY? HAW!
YOU JEALOUS, CONSTRICTOR? WELL, TOO BAD.
'CAUSE I GOT A MAN. AND IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP, HE'LL KICK YOUR ASS.

I GUESS WE'RE OUTED.
IN THAT CASE, C'MERE... I GOT A REWARD FOR TODAY'S BIG HERO.
YOU BETTER HAVE MORE THAN ONE, HANDSOME.
HRRR?
MRRAWWW!
EVERYONE GET DOWN! CLEAR THE AREA!
SHZZAKK
BTOOM
CLOUD 9! I GOT YOU!
HRRRR--
TAKE COVER! HE'S GOING TO BREATHE FIRE!
NO, STINGRAY...
...HE'S GOING TO CHOKE ON IT!
KA-WHAMMM

ARE YOU OKAY, ABBY?
YEAH, I'M FINE, THANKS, SCARLET SPIDER.
JUST HAD A LITTLE DÉJÀ VU THERE...
CONGRATULATIONS, PEOPLE...FOR TAKING OUT THE THREAT IN THE LOUDEST WAY POSSIBLE.
CLAP CLAP CLAP
AND THE TIMING--WITH PRESS AND CIVILIANS GATHERED RIGHT OUTSIDE THE GATES! IMPECCABLE!
GYRICH, LISTEN UP. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ESCORT OUR OVERSIZED PRISONER TO 42. WHILE I'M OFF IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE...
...I WANT HOURLY REPORTS FORWARDED TO TONY STARK AND S.H.I.E.L.D. IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?
YEAH, I'LL GET RIGHT ON THAT, RHODES. MAKE IT MY TOP PRIORITY.
FOLLOW ME, TASKMASTER--I WANT TO INTRODUCE THE RECRUITS TO THEIR NEW DRILL INSTRUCTOR. MAKE SURE THERE AREN'T ANY DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS.
I WOULDN'T MIND IF THERE ARE. IT'D GIVE ME A CHANCE TO SEE WHAT THEY'VE GOT.
AND RAM IT DOWN THEIR THROATS.
TASKMASTER? MY DAD FOUGHT HIM ONCE. I THOUGHT HE WAS A BAD GUY.
HE IS. IF YOU ASK ME, WAR MACHINE SHOULD DRAG HIM OFF TO THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

...YOU'LL BE OFFERED A SPOT ON ONE OF OUR FIFTY NATIONWIDE TEAMS. DO THAT, AND YOU'VE MADE IT TO "THE SHOW."
YOUR DRILL INSTRUCTOR, THE TASKMASTER, WILL TAKE THINGS FROM HERE. YOU'LL MEET HIM MOMENTARILY.
DID YOU HEAR ME, GYRICH? BECAUSE I CAN'T BELIEVE THOSE WORDS CAME OUT OF MY MOUTH-- "YOUR DRILL INSTRUCTOR, THE TASKMASTER."
WHO USED TO TRAIN CRIMINALS FOR A LIVING. BUT THEN, I GUESS IT'S JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HOW THIS PROGRAM IS GOING TO HELL.
IF THE RED SKULL WASN'T DEAD, I'D BE CONVINCED HE WAS BEHIND THIS.
STOP BEING SUCH A DRAMA QUEEN, PYM. I HAD TASKMASTER TRAIN MY MEN WHEN I WAS WITH THE CSA, AND IT WORKED OUT FINE.
WE'VE GOT NANITES IN HIS BRAIN THAT CAN LOBOTOMIZE HIM IF HE FORGETS TO SALUTE. WHAT COULD GO WRONG?
YEAH. IF YOU CAN'T TRUST THIS FACE, WHO CAN YOU TRUST... SIR?
UNCLE HANK? CAN I TALK TO YOU?
OF COURSE, CASSIE; I'M ALL DONE HERE. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
REMEMBER WHEN YOU TOOK DOWN THAT HYDRA MOTHERSHIP IN TEXAS? IT EXPLODED, BUT YOU SURVIVED BY SHRINKING TO SUBATOMIC SIZE?
YES... THAT'S RIGHT.
WELL...MY DAD DIED IN AN EXPLOSION. HE WAS ANT-MAN...HE HAD SHRINKING POWERS TOO. DO YOU THINK... I MEAN...
...COULDN'T HE HAVE SURVIVED THE SAME WAY? MAYBE WE COULD PUT A TEAM TOGETHER AND GO INTO THE MICROVERSE TO LOOK FOR HIM...
...JUST IN CASE...
CASSIE...I DID A THOROUGH CHECK FOR PYM PARTICLES AT THE SITE WHERE YOUR FATHER... OF THE EXPLOSION. I DIDN'T FIND ANY. HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO SHRINK.
SCOTT WAS A GOOD FRIEND. I'D LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN IF IT WEREN'T TRUE... BUT IT IS.
SOMETIMES... SOMETIMES HEROES DIE.

OKAY, MAGGOTS--OFF THE BUS AND FALL IN!
HOLY CRAP. I THOUGHT I'D SEEN SOME MOPES IN MY DAY, BUT YOU ALL MAKE THE STILT-MAN LOOK LIKE DR. DOOM!
LET'S SE■. ANT-MAN...THE CRUSADER... MELEE...GELDOFF? GOT TIRED OF ORGANIZING LIVE AID CONCERTS, HUH?
DRAGON LORD...GEIGER... RED 9...AND DIAMONDBACK. FINALLY, SOMEONE I RECOGNIZE.
DRAGON LORD! POWERS AND ABILITIES.
I CAN SUMMON AND CONTROL DRAGONS, SIR.
YEAH? WHERE WERE YOU FIVE MINUTES AGO?
I HAVE TO MIX A BREW IN ONE OF MY SPECIAL CAULDRONS FIRST.
SON, THAT'S NOT A SUPER POWER. THAT'S HOME ECONOMICS.
MELEE. ACCORDING TO THE FILE, YOUR POWER'S A MASTERY OF EVERY FORM OF MARTIAL ARTS.
I'LL BE PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO YOU, PRINCESS.
WAIT A SECOND... ANT-MAN?
ANT-MAN?

IF YOU'RE THE SAME ANT-MAN WHO BUSTED UP MY CIRCUS OPERATION--
SIR, NO SIR! I NEVER EVEN MET THAT LOSER!
BUT--BUT I HEARD STORIES ABOUT HIM!
LIKE...THEY WOULDN'T LET HIM JOIN THE AVENGERS, 'CAUSE HE WAS SO LAME, SO...HE HID IN THE MANSION AND PRETENDED TO BE ON THE TEAM!
...SO HE'S SITTING ON THE SHOWERHEAD, WATCHING MS. MARVEL SOAP UP! I MEAN, WHAT A PERV, RIGHT?
HAH! WAIT'LL I TELL THE GUYS!
STOP IT...
CASSIE--NFF!
STOP TELLING LIES ABOUT MY DAD!
UH-OH.
THOOM THOOM THOOM

STOMPED BY GIANT JAILBAIT. I KNOW GUYS WHO'D PAY TO DIE LIKE THIS...
USING PYM PARTICLES
WOULD TO ACTIVATE G.I. ANT-MAN SYSTEMS TO MATCH SIZE?
I CAN DO THAT?
YES! I'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO! IN FACT, I'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO DO IT RIGHT NOW!
C'MON, PYM PARTICLES, DO YOUR STUFF... AHH, THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT!
THOOM
YEE-HA! GOT AN OPPONENT YOUR OWN SIZE NOW, BABE!
WHICH MEANS I'M BEATING UP A TEENAGE GIRL. EVEN FOR ME, THAT'S--
--WAIT, A GIANT TEENAGE GIRL. THAT MAKES IT OKAY!
CASSIE! O'GRADY! STAND DOWN, NOW!
OH, THIS IS BEAUTIFUL, PYM. WE MIGHT'VE BEEN ABLE TO EXPLAIN AWAY THE NOISE OF THE DRAGON MAN FIGHT...
...BUT YOUR BRAWLING FIFTY-FOOT PROTEGES JUST GUARANTEED US A SPOT ON THE EVENING NEWS.
I ALWAYS SAID WE NEEDED HIGHER WALLS...

OH, THE HUMANITY! YOU JUST STEPPED ON STINGRAY!
WHAT?
OH, NO... I DIDN'T MEAN TO--
PSYCH.
KRAKOOM
WHOA. THIS IS SO COOL.
FROM UP HERE YOU ALL LOOK LIKE ANTS!

OH, YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT!
WHO'S YOUR DADDY NOW?!
YOU SON OF A...
SHE'S A LITTLE GIRL!
WHAM
HNGH--FUNNY DEFINITION OF "LITTLE"...
TASKMASTER! DO SOMETHING!
SORRY, GYRICH. I DON'T CARE HOW MANY NANITES YOU'VE GOT IN MY HEAD, I'M NOT GETTING IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT.
I'M AN INSTRUCTOR. I'M HERE TO TEACH: THAT'S IT.
FINE! THEN SCHOOL'S IN SESSION.
START TEACHING!

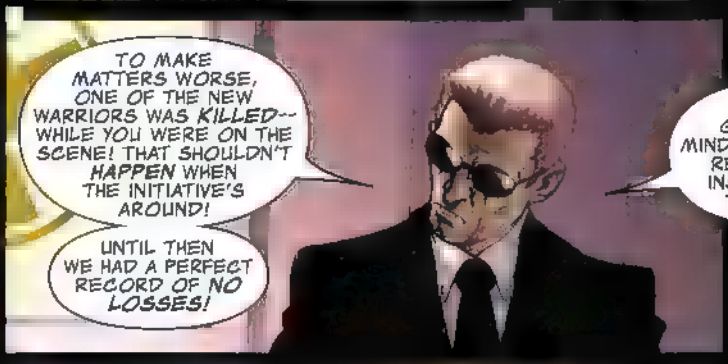
ALL RIGHT. JUST TO STOP YOUR WHINING.
PAY ATTENTION, CLASS. THERE'S ONE SIMPLE RULE WHEN YOU'RE FIGHTING GIANTS.
STEP ASIDE, UNCLE HANK. THIS "LITTLE GIRL'S" GONNA KICK SOME HUMONGOUS--
THEY HAVE THE SAME WEAK POINTS AS A NORMAL-SIZED BODY...
...ONLY BIGGER.
OW!
TUNK
KUNK
NGH!
GAH!
KUNK
AT THIS HEIGHT, YOUR OPPONENTS' ACHILLES TENDONS ARE OVER THREE FEET TALL--
--AND ONLY AN IDIOT COULD MISS THAT BIG A TARGET.
OH YEAH-- TIMBER.
HOLY-- RUN!

EXCELLENT POINT, KID. MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHERE THEY'RE GOING TO FALL.
TASKMASTER, YOU IDIOT, I HAD IT UNDER CONTROL! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? SOMEONE COULD HAVE BEEN CRUSHED!
I'LL SLAP YOU IN THE BRIG SO FAST YOU'LL--
THE SAME PRINCIPLE, YOU'LL FIND, HOLDS TRUE FOR THE NERVE CLUSTERS IN THE NECK...
...RIGHT HERE.
HURK!
CAUSING IMMEDIATE UNCONSCIOUSNESS.
ANY QUESTIONS?
TASKMASTER...
WHAT? I JUST DID WHAT YOU ASKED, BOSS.
RELAX. JUDGING FROM THE PUNKS I'VE SEEN AROUND HERE, I'M GONNA BE A WAY BETTER D.I. THAN THE LAST GUY...
...AND I'LL BET I TURN OUT A WAY BETTER CROP OF SUPER-BRATS!

Briefing Room One.
Later.
ALL RIGHT, CADETS--DAMN IT, GYRICH, I CAN BARELY FEEL MY ARM! --LET'S DISCUSS YOUR MOST RECENT MISSION.
TRIATHLON--HOW WOULD YOU EVALUATE YOUR STUDENTS?

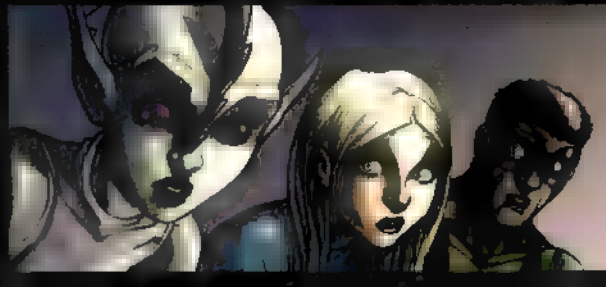
I WAS EXTREMELY IMPRESSED. THERE WAS NO LOSS OF LIFE OR MAJOR PROPERTY DAMAGE.
IN FACT, GIVEN HER PERFORMANCE AGAINST DRAGON MAN, HYDRA AND OTHERS, I'D LIKE TO NOMINATE KOMODO FOR A COMMENDATION.

A WHAT? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
YOUR TEAM JUST LOST A VERY PUBLIC BATTLE AGAINST THE ZODIAC.* THE NEW WARRIORS--OF ALL PEOPLE--HAD TO BAIL YOU OUT!
*IN NEW WARRIORS #4 --TOM.

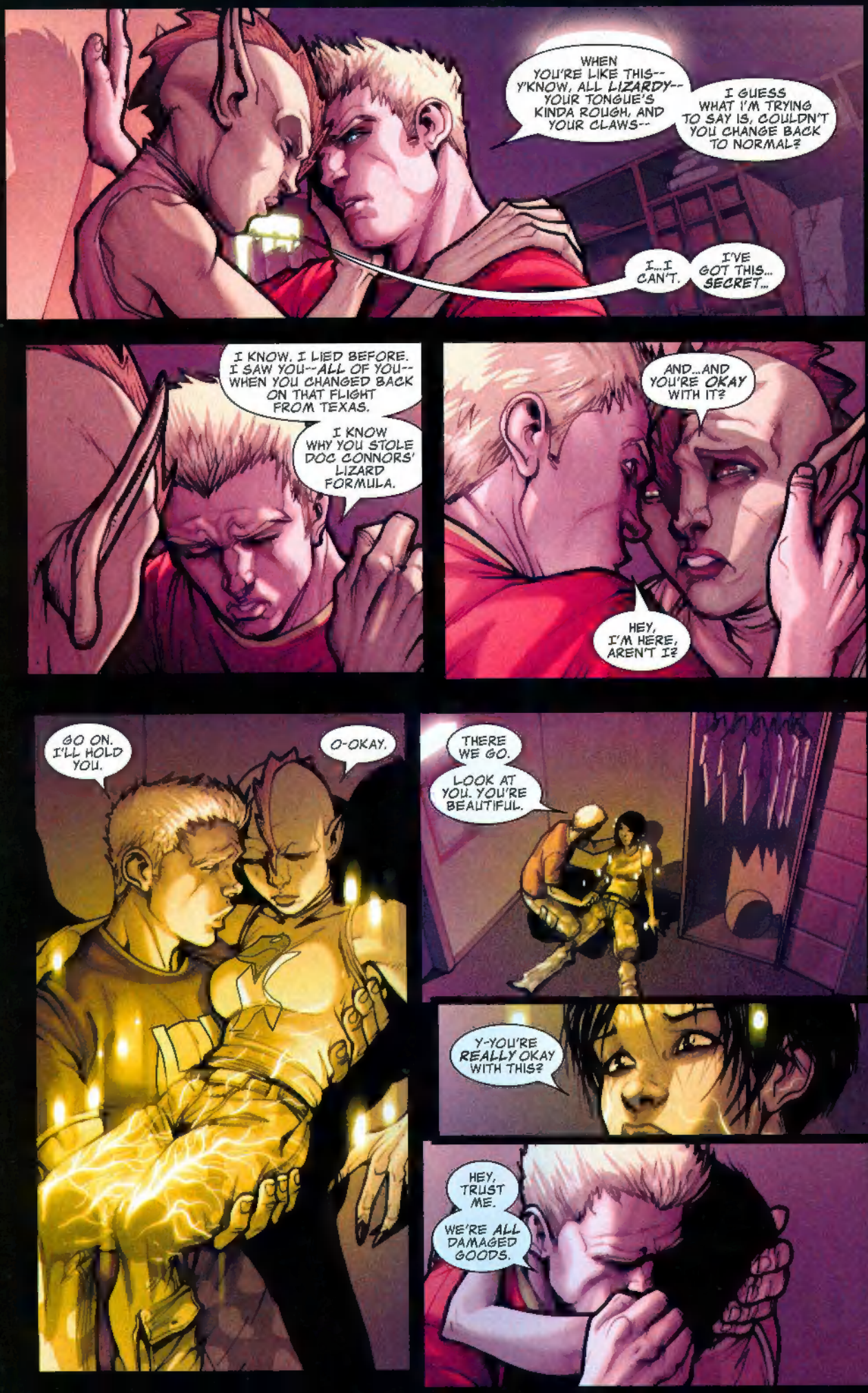

TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, ONE OF THE NEW WARRIORS WAS KILLED--WHILE YOU WERE ON THE SCENE! THAT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN WHEN THE INITIATIVE'S AROUND!
UNTIL THEN WE HAD A PERFECT RECORD OF NO LOSSES!

WHY, I'VE GOT HALF A MIND TO MAKE YOU REPEAT YOUR INSTRUCTOR'S TRAINING--

SHUT UP!!!
I HEAR ONE MORE WORD OUTTA YOU, OLD MAN, AND I'LL TELL EVERYONE YOUR "PERFECT RECORD'S" A LOAD OF CRAP!
YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HOLD PEOPLE'S MISTAKES OVER THEM? WELL, THINK AGAIN!
YOU GOT SKELETONS IN YOUR CLOSET TOO. AND ONE OF 'EM'S A KILLER.



WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT, HARDBALL?
AND WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THERE'S A WAY TO MAKE GYRICH SHUT UP?
AHH, YOU JUST GOTTA SHOW THESE GUYS YOU WON'T TAKE ATTITUDE FROM 'EM. THEY NEED US MORE THAN WE NEED THEM.
HARDBALL, STOP IT! YOU'RE GONNA GET US ALL IN TROUBLE!
SHE'S RIGHT, BLONDIE. YOU'VE BEEN BAD. YOU'VE BEEN REALLY, REALLY BAD.
SUPPLIES
AND I LOVE IT.
HEY... THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU.


WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THIS-- Y'KNOW, ALL LIZARDY-- YOUR TONGUE'S KINDA ROUGH, AND YOUR CLAWS--
I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, COULDN'T YOU CHANGE BACK TO NORMAL?
I...I CAN'T.
I'VE GOT THIS... SECRET...
I KNOW. I LIED BEFORE. I SAW YOU--ALL OF YOU-- WHEN YOU CHANGED BACK ON THAT FLIGHT FROM TEXAS.
I KNOW WHY YOU STOLE DOC CONNORS' LIZARD FORMULA.
AND...AND YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT?
HEY, I'M HERE, AREN'T I?
GO ON. I'LL HOLD YOU.
O-OKAY.
THERE WE GO.
LOOK AT YOU. YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL.
Y-YOU'RE REALLY OKAY WITH THIS?
HEY, TRUST ME.
WE'RE ALL DAMAGED GOODS.

Subbasement 9.
Yellowjacket's Lab.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SNOT-NOSED PUNK HAS THE GALL TO BLACKMAIL US!
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? IT'S OUR OWN FAULT. MVP DIED BECAUSE WE WERE CARELESS, AND NOW WE HAVE TO COVER IT UP.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT WE SHOULD DO. WE SHOULD BREAK OUT THE SPIN TECH AND DE-POWER HIM! DE-POWER EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM!
YOU'RE OVERREACTING. WE CAN'T DE-POWER AN ENTIRE CLASS. WE DON'T KNOW HOW WE'RE GOING TO STAFF THE FIFTY STATE INITIATIVE AS IT IS.
I'LL TELL YOU HOW! THESE CADETS ARE THE ONLY ONES CLOSE TO WORKING OUT!
IF WE HAD ANY SENSE, WE'D CLONE AND REPROGRAM MORE OF HIM! STAFF OUR TEAMS THAT WAY!
FIFTY STATES FULL OF FREAKING MVP CLONES!
HMM. YOU KNOW, THAT COULD WORK.
REALLY?
WHAT DO YOU SAY, HERR PYM? IT IS YOUR CALL.

Subbasement 9.
Now.
WHAT WAS I THINKING? WHAT WERE ANY OF US--
YELLOWJACKET.
OH, NO...

KILLED IN ACTION
PART 1 OF 4: SNAFU
DAN SLOTT & CHRISTOS N. GAGE WRITERS
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DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER
YOU'RE ON MY LIST.
To Be Continued...